

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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 SUBJECT **Notes on Various East German Optical Plants**

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

[Redacted] information on various optical plants and other users of optical equipment [Redacted]

1. VEB Zeiss-Ikon Dresden: Approximately 4,000 employees. 25X1
 - a. Personnel: Chief - Netz (fnu) 25X1
 - Technical chief - Hajesch (fnu)
 - Chief designer - Barenzi (fnu)
 - Designer - Kuhnert (fnu) (Specialist for motion picture projectors) 25X1
 - Sales - Schroeder (fnu), Dr.
 - Chief mathematician - Geissler (fnu)
 - Scientific direction - Dipl. Ing. Schulze (fnu)
 - Motion picture apparatus - Dipl. Ing. Schehring (fnu) 25X1
 - Electro-amplifiers - Dipl. Ing. Trommer (fnu).

b. Production: During World War II, Zeiss-Ikon was active in the production of gun cameras and in fuse experiments. The space formerly devoted to this work is now being used for normal consumer production. The plant manufactures viewfinders and mounts for the Contax-S, 1 25X1, time cameras, and prisms for film editing machines.

2. VEB IHAGEE Kamerawerk, Dresden: It has one plant, employing about 500 persons. The plant does about 10,000,000 DME worth of business per year.

a. Personnel: Chief - Kretzschmar (fnu), formerly secretary to the Lord Mayor of Dresden. 25X1

b. Production: [Redacted] a new 6x6 cm. camera of which 12,000 were planned. Some 300 were exported and returned as defective. This situation left IHAGEE with about 2,000,000 DME worth of parts. Other production includes 25,000 Exakta Varex and a 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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cheaper camera, the Exa. Some Exa cameras were produced for Rheinmetall, Soemmerda.

3. VEB Kamerawerke Niederschlitz, Dresden. This plant [redacted] employs between 750 and 900 persons. The plant chiefly produces two types of cameras, the Praktica and the Praktina. 25,000 of each were planned for 1954; however since the development of the Praktina was delayed, the Praktica was re-planned for 45,000 units.
4. VEB Feinmess Werke, Dresden, Kleiststrasse. This plant, formerly Gustav Heyde GmbH, employs between 400 and 500 persons. The chief is Richter (fnu). The plant formerly made aerial topographical equipment but now makes only machine tools and instruments for measuring and cutting glass. 25X1
5. VEB Rathenower Optische Werke Rathenow: It has two plants at Osterburg and Aldo (Dresden). These plants employ a total of approximately 3,000 persons.
 - a. Personnel:
 - Chief - name unknown. A young man of no experience or training for the job.
 - Designer - Petermann (fnu), does most of the work. 25X1
 - Sales Department - Suhr (fnu).
 - b. Production: The plant is mainly concerned with the production of spectacle lenses and frames. Other special production includes microphotocameras, trichine meters, (sic) and BC scopes. This latter item was made for Red China. The first attempt was not successful. It was discovered that the scopes weighed more than the specifications called for. The scopes were remade with aluminum frames and delivered and now weigh under 28 kg. each.
6. VEB Feinoptisches Werk, Goerlitz: The plant formerly employed 200 persons but now has about 1,000 employees. The chief is Wisorek (fnu); the technical chief is Anders (fnu), a man of little experience in the business. Production is mainly devoted to the manufacture of camera lenses.
7. VEB Transformatoren u. Roentgenwerk (TRARO) Dresden-Neustadt:
 - a. The chief of the plant until very recently was an SED member and had resided in Russia. An article appeared in the newspapers which took the factory to task for not having fulfilled its plan. Shortly thereafter the chief disappeared.
 - b. The technical chief is Frommholt (fnu), a self-taught specialist in Geiger counters. He has a research laboratory in Radebeul, where he competes, in a sense, with Prof. Paul Goerlich. Frommholt ordered about 300 counting tubes of various sizes from the VEB Carl Zeiss, Jena, branch plant in Dresden-Reick. In December, 1954 the Ministry for Machine Construction expedited the delivery of the tubes which were to be used in Geiger counters that were to be exported to the USSR. It was hoped that if the delivery dates were kept, more orders would be forthcoming.
 - c. Schwarzer (fnu), Dipl. Ing., is also active in the plant. He is a specialist for ultrasonic devices and medical research.
 - d. The plant also produces machined metal and ceramic plates.

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8. VEB Medizinische Geraete Fabrik; This plant is located in East Berlin, 42 Chausseestrasse and employs about 1,000 persons. The chief is Noack (fnu). Production consists of medical equipment such as cystoscopes, Graufarbkeile, (Goldberg wedge).
9. VEB Belca-Werk, Dresden A21; The plant produces stereocameras and a cheap 6 x 9 cm. camera.
10. VEB Bueromaschinenwerk Rheinmetall, Soemmerda; This plant normally produces typewriters and other office machines, but, in order to reduce unemployment in the area, began to produce cheap cameras. The camera is called the Perfekta, is made of bakelite, and sells for 24 DME. 300,000 were produced in 1954, and 400,000 are planned for 1955.
11. VEB Welta-Kamera-Werke Freital (near Dresden); This plant, which employs about 300 persons, has a sub-plant in Tharant. The chief is Skulauthe (fnu). The plant produces a variety of small cameras, i.e. the Weltax, Weltina, and the Reflector, a reflex camera. The lens used is a standard 1:2.9 produced by Optisches Werk Ernst Ludwig, Weixdorf near Dresden.
12. Various Private Concerns:
- Certo Camerawerk GmbH: Employs about 120 persons. The plant makes cameras 
 - Fouva-Werk, Freital: This plant makes a small bakelite camera, very simple and cheap (12 DME).
 - Optisches Werk Ernst Ludwig Weixdorf (near Dresden): This plant employs about 120 persons and produces cheap, simple lenses. Ludwig has developed more complicated lenses but will not put them into production; thus, he can keep control of the plant.
 - Lehmann and Balzer, Lommatzsch (halfway between Dresden and Leipzig). This plant manufactures simple optics and machined mirrors. It employs about 120 persons.

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